

# Belvoir Special School Newsletter



38 Gayview Drive, WODONGA, 3690

**Dear Parents/Carers/Friends,**

Welcome to our Week 3 newsletter for Term 3. We appreciate all that you do to help make the relationship between home and school a partnership that helps your children to learn. This week we have had many families and carers with students allied health team onsite discussing students strengths, skills and their goals and learning focus for this semester.

The health of many people has taken a battering, and this has been a challenge for many of us as we balance work and other commitments. We are currently being notified of some COVID-19 cases, flu and RSV and have some staff absences and so we encourage you to continue to be vigilant. We are hopeful that this will lessen as the weather warms up and we see a reduction in colds and flus.

Book Week is coming up in Week 7 and we will be having a dress up day on Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August. We encourage our students to dress up as a favourite book character or to use this year's theme 'Read, grow and aspire' to inspire a costume.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Students are expected to be in full school uniform every day. This consists of the burgundy polo shirt or blue polo shirt for our senior students, navy blue pants or shorts, school jumper and closed in toe shoes.

While we realise the weather has been cooler in the mornings, students are encouraged to wear the burgundy jumper to keep warm. Beanies are now available to order from the office.

**STUDENT SPECIFIC MEDICAL MANAGEMENT PLANS**

We are in the process of updating Medical management plans for our students. If your child has been diagnosed with Asthma, Epilepsy, Anaphylaxis or any other medical condition that requires a medical management plan, could you please make sure that you provide us with the most up to date copies. It is extremely important that our records are kept up to date. If you have any queries, please contact the school office team.

**2023 DATES TO REMEMBER**

Pupil Free Day  
Friday 28th July

**Dyson's Buses****PHONE NUMBERS****BUS 1:** 0460 935 609**BUS 2:** 0460 875 492**BUS 3:** 0460 896 490**BUS 4:** 0460 869 012**Belvoir Bus:** 0431 756 813



# Room 17 NEW

Jo F, Nina, Prajna and Steph



It is great to see Room 17 students have enjoyed their first few weeks of Term 3.

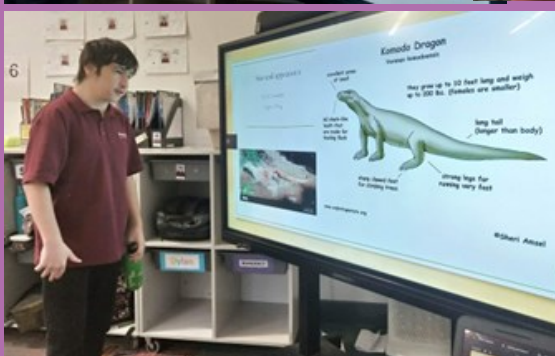
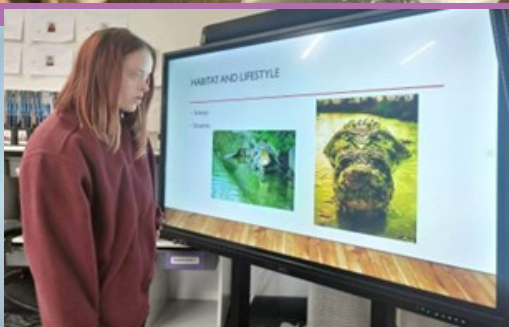
We started off the term with an Indigenous focus as part of NAIDOC Week and listened to various Dreamtime stories, and learnt about what this is and why it is important. Students enjoyed celebrating NAIDOC Week and taking part in a range of activities including making Johnny cakes, learning about various artefacts and hunting tools, contributing to a large rainbow serpent artwork mural and drawing various Indigenous symbols on Boomerangs. This has tied in very nicely with our Purple Pod term topic 'Indigenous Australia'.

In the final weeks of last term, students displayed great interest in researching an animal and creating an information text and PowerPoint which they were able to present to the class, with some prompting.

Our focus in Maths has been 'Time' and students have participated in a range of activities looking at the difference between day/night, ordering routine activities, making clocks and a sundial; and telling the time on various clocks.

Students in Room 17 have also enjoyed an outing to the Albury Library Museum this term. They were able to explore the library space and spend time looking at the displays in the museum.

We look forward to lots more productive learning and fun as the term continues.







# ROOM 11 NEWS

Paul, Gail, Imogen & Phoebe



Last term, Green Pod delved into the world of life cycles and natural growth with our term topic "Watch it Grow".

Coming back this term after the holidays the class was excited to discover that our broad bean seeds that we had planted at the end of Term 2 had sprouted and were beginning to outgrow the tiny little seedling containers. We've moved them into bigger pots and have been coming in each day, giving them a little bit of water and making sure they're getting plenty of sunlight on our bench. Everyone in room 11 has been so thrilled and surprised to see our seedlings had survived the best part of a very cold winter, and hopefully with some warmer weather on the horizon, we can watch our seedlings grow and grow!



# ORANGE POD NEWS

## Room 21 News

Scott, Bron and Jonathan

### Work Experience Interview

**Name:** Isabelle Biggs

**Work Experience Location:** Fernbank “The Hub”

**What staff members do you work with:** Josette, Alyssa and a few other staff members.

**What jobs do you do at work experience:** I make Lemon Slice and Yo-Yo's. I also clean the benches as well as wash and dry the dishes.

**Do you enjoy work experience? Why?**

Yes, because I enjoy cooking.

**What is your favourite job to do and why?**

I like to pack the dishwasher and also put the dishes away after they are cleaned. I like how the dishwasher cleans the dishes.....this means I don't have to do it!

**What new skills have you learnt?**

The new skills I have learnt are cooking, washing dishes, drying dishes and cleaning.



# MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER TERM 3 UPDATE



**Grace Churches**  
Mental Health Practitioner  
Belvoir Special School

**WELCOME BACK** to all students and families! Our Belvoir extended community has definitely hit the ground running in Term 3.

Over the last week I have had the pleasure of connecting with a number of families across all pod levels post SSG meetings to provide information about the Mental Health Practitioner program and how I can support both students and their families to address any mental health concerns, access appropriate external support services and ensure we can promote and support mental wellness for all students within our school setting both in and out of the classroom.

A common request I have heard from families this term has been access to resources to assist them in feeling confident to initiate and support conversations at home with their children around puberty, cyber safety, respectful relationship, exploring sexuality/gender identity.

Please find below a list of current resources covering some of these topics.



- **PLANET PUBERTY:** [www.planetpuberty.org.au](http://www.planetpuberty.org.au)

Planet Puberty is a FREE digital resource suite by Family Planning NSW that aims to provide parents and carers of children with intellectual disability and/or autism spectrum disorder with the latest information, strategies and resources for supporting their child through puberty.

- **THAT'S SUSS:** Esafety Program (Cyber safety) <https://danielmorcombe.com.au/keeping-kids-safe/thats-suss>

That's Suss: eSafety Challenge is the latest FREE resource developed from the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, providing children 8 to 12 years of age the skills they can use to recognise red flags, react to their body clues and learn how to report online grooming and suspicious behaviour.

- **AMAZE:** [www.amaze.org.au](http://www.amaze.org.au)

Amaze builds autism understanding in the community, provides independent, credible information and resources to individuals, families, professionals.

- **Doing 'IT':** Sexual Health Victoria

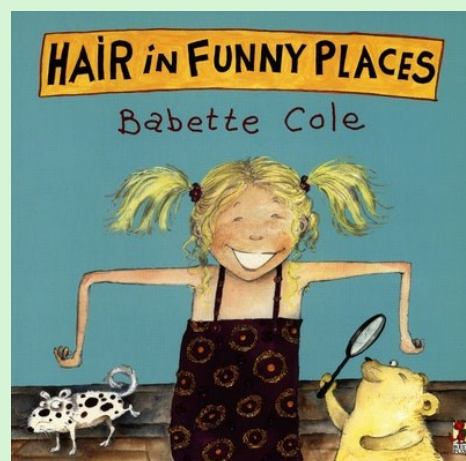
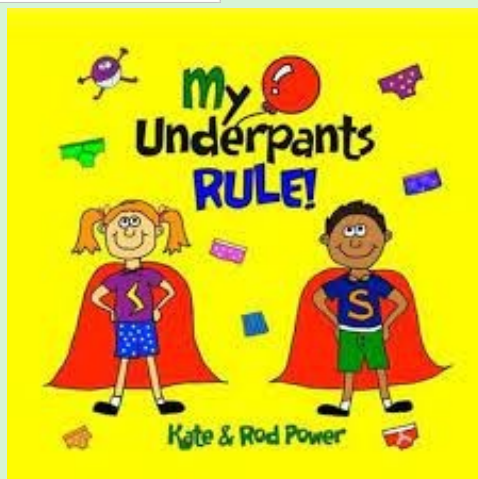
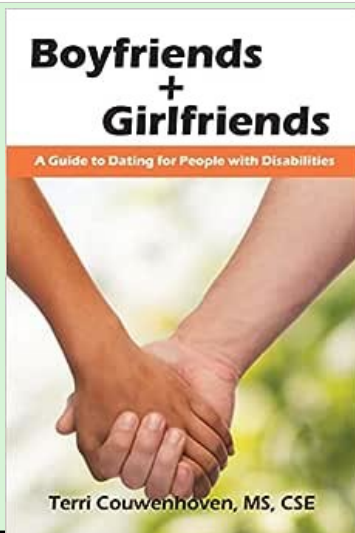
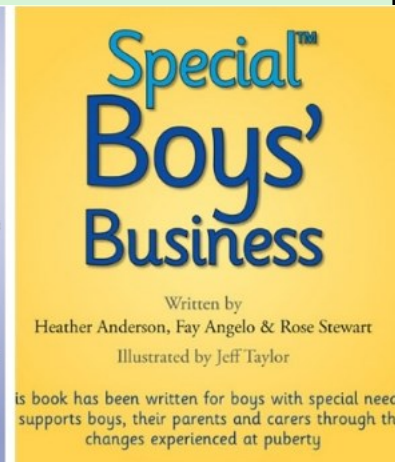
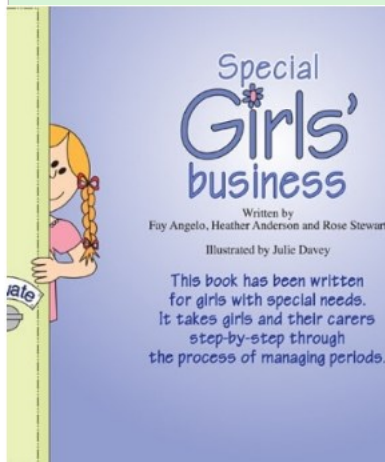
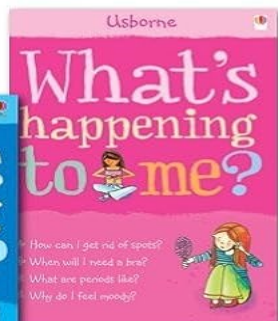
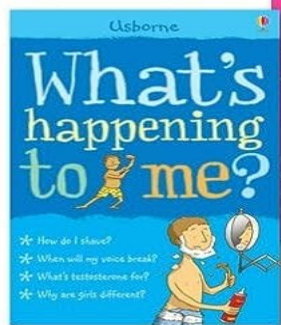
Sexual Health Victoria presents: Doing 'IT'. In each episode, SHV's Schools Educator Anne interviews the experts to help parents, carers and teachers of school-aged children navigate the world of Relationships and Sexuality Education. Want to know more about: bodies, being safe, puberty, sex, sexual health, consent and relationships? This is the podcast for you.

Podcast can be accessed for FREE through spotify/ itunes.



# MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER TERM 3 UPDATE

**RECOMMENDED RESOURCES - PUBERTY/ RELATIONSHIPS :** MHP has hard copy of all books onsite for family reference point.



## UPCOMING LOCAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES (FREE): TERM 3 GATEWAY HEALTH

- Tuning into Kids: Emotionally intelligent parenting (2-10 yr olds) - Wodonga
  - Parenting Trans & Gender Diverse Kinds & Teens– Wodonga
  - Tuning into Kids: Emotionally intelligent parenting (10yr and over)- Online
  - Tuning into Dads: Emotionally intelligent parenting (3-10 yr olds) - Wodonga
- To find out more information and/or to register your interest please contact Gateway Health Parenting Team 6022 8888 or visit website [www.gatewayhealth.org.au](http://www.gatewayhealth.org.au)

## WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

All families have access to support through the Mental Health Practitioner program at Belvoir Special School. Should you require support or have concerns about your child's mental health, please do not hesitate to make contact to schedule a telephone consult. Grace Churches—[grace.churches@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:grace.churches@education.vic.gov.au) . Work days onsite (Tuesday– Friday), Monday (Fortnightly).

The Rotary Club of Albury proudly presents...

# CIRCUS QUIRKUS 2023

Relaxed Performances for children and young adults who might require a more flexible environment when going to the theatre. Enjoy the "live performance" experience with a casual attitude to audience noise and movement in an inclusive, accessible, safe environment where you feel welcomed and free to be yourself without restriction or judgement.

A one-hour show, suitable for all ages.

All tickets are COMPLIMENTARY and generously sponsored by businesses from the Albury/Wodonga regions.

**DATE: SUNDAY, 30 JULY 2023**

**SHOW TIMES: 11.00AM, 2.00PM & 4.00PM**

**VENUE: COMMERCIAL CLUB ALBURY**



Jonas Jost: Show Host & Magician



Luke Forrester: Mouth Balancer

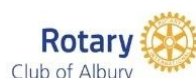


James Bustar: Comedy Juggler

**TO BOOK, PLEASE EMAIL OR TEXT YOUR  
TICKET ORDER AND CONTACT DETAILS TO...**

**✉ [MEREDITHNEWMAN@SHOWINTENT.COM.AU](mailto:MEREDITHNEWMAN@SHOWINTENT.COM.AU) 📞 0404-367-782**

- Bulk and individual ticket orders from schools, organisations, families and carers are welcome, including tentative bookings.
- All tickets are complimentary - One ticket per person is required when booking tickets.
- Bookings for multiple dates and showtimes are welcome.
- Tickets distributed on a first-come first-served basis. Available until booked out.







# ROOM 3 NEWS

Mel, Georgia, Alicia & Molly



Welcome back to our students in Room 3, we have already had a busy start to the term and everyone is settling back into school. We have welcomed Georgia to our Room 3 Team this term.

Our Term Topic is History - Now and Then and Room 3 students have been excited to explore many different old artefacts including an old typewriter, dial telephones, what an olden day classroom looked like, writing and posting a letter, using chalk boards and chalk for writing and fountain pens with ink in our weekly Learn to Play sessions. We are also enjoying looking at "old" things – such as old houses, transport, clothing, toys to name a few.

We have been reading a special story about the Uiver airplane landing in Albury which happened almost ninety years ago! We are reading the book to find out what happened and how the people of Albury worked together to help the plane land safely.

We are exploring money in maths, including what different Australian coins look like, their value and playing some shopping games where we get to "buy" items with play money, matching coins and placing coins in order of their value. We have continued our weekly cooking sessions making jonnies cakes and cupcakes recently. It is wonderful to see our students so enthusiastic about our cooking activities and continuing to learn lots of hands-on skills in the kitchen.

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July we joined in with some different NAIDOC Week activities, including making jonnies cakes, listening to the dreamtime story of the Rainbow Serpent then creating chalk drawings of different Aboriginal symbols, looking at Aboriginal artefacts and decorating our own boomerangs. Later in the day we took part in a Welcome to Country and watched some Aboriginal dances. It was a pleasure to see how well our students participated in these activities with their older peers from Purple Pod, as well as their respectful interactions with the Koori Education Support Officers who provided the activities throughout the day.

We are looking forward to Book Week and the annual Belvoir Book Parade on 22<sup>nd</sup> August from 9:30am, we hope to see everyone dressed up as their favourite characters/books!

Room 3 Staff - Mel, Jordan & Georgia







CHILDREN'S  
BOOK WEEK®

#CBCA2023

BELVOIR BOOK PARADE  
TUES. 22<sup>nd</sup> August 9:30

READ  
GROW  
Inspire



ARTWORK BY MATT OTTLEY

© 2023 THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA



# Stay well this winter

Symptoms of influenza (flu) can hit very quickly and may last several weeks. Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and others from getting the flu.

[Annual influenza vaccination](#) is recommended from mid-April each year and is free under the [National Immunisation Program](#) for those at higher risk of complications from the flu.

## Keeping our school community well

Parents, carers and students are encouraged to practice prevention measures, including:

- washing and sanitising hands regularly
  - avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
  - covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing
- staying home if unwell and consulting a general practitioner (GP) or [Nurse-on-call](#) as required
- [staying up to date with flu and COVID-19 vaccinations.](#)

## Flu vaccinations

Flu vaccinations can be booked through GPs and pharmacies, many of which can also provide COVID-19 vaccinations. Flu vaccination is recommended for everyone aged 6 months and over.

Some people are more at risk of complications from flu and are eligible for free vaccination as part of the [National Immunisation Program](#).

## COVID-19 booster

The 2023 COVID-19 booster dose is available for everyone aged 18 and above.

Getting your booster dose remains the best way to prevent severe illness or hospitalisation, especially in people aged over 65 and those at higher risk of severe illness.

You can have your booster dose 6 months after your last dose or COVID infection.

Children aged between 5 and 17 years who are at risk of severe illness can also receive a 2023 booster dose.

You can get your next dose at your local pharmacy or GP. To find one near you, refer to the [vaccine clinic finder](#).

## Find out more

For more information about preventing flu, and immunisation, refer to:

[Better Health Channel influenza flu immunisation fact sheet](#)

[Getting vaccinated against influenza.](#)





## 2 more weeks to collect!

We are amazed at the number of requests we have received for more time to collect. That is why we are thrilled to announce we are extending collections for 4 more weeks!

You now have until the **4th of August** to get your Collection Boxes packed nice and full, and send them off to earn more points, and keep soft plastic out of landfill.

**IMPORTANT:** Please ensure all bags are clean, by emptying out the breadcrumbs and ensuring there is no residue or food left in them. Bread tags also need to be removed and can be recycled at home (if cardboard).

Your support is much appreciated. Thank you.



### Parental Concerns or Issues

Belvoir Special School welcomes feedback, both positive and negative, and is committed to continuous improvement. We value open communication with our families and are committed to understanding complaints and addressing them appropriately. We recognise that the complaints process provides an important opportunity for reflection and learning.

We encourage and value open positive relationships with our school community and understand that it is in the best interests of students for there to be a trusting relationship between families and our school.

Parents are able to contact the school through the student diaries which are sent home with students each day, or they can ring the school to speak with classroom staff before or after school most days.

If the matter is urgent parents are able to email [belvoir.wodonga.sds@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:belvoir.wodonga.sds@education.vic.gov.au) or call the school on 0260 598 987 and speak with or organise a time to discuss the issue with either Emma, myself or relevant staff.

Our full complaints and other policies can be found at:

[Policies and Forms - Belvoir Special Development School \(belvoirss.vic.edu.au\)](http://belvoirss.vic.edu.au)

# NDIS REQUESTS FOR ONSITE OBSERVATION

Over the past few weeks Belvoir has received a number of requests for Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Behaviour Practitioners and Physiotherapists into the school to work with individual students. Currently, Belvoir has 189 students enrolled in the school and most of these students are NDIS participants accessing one, or more, therapy services. As a result of this, Belvoir is not able to accommodate all requests for space for the various therapists to work in. Parents are reminded that all NDIS therapists must first be approved from the school before they undertake any work with students on school grounds.

This is Department of Education policy and includes therapists that are visiting the school to observe students in class for the first time. A link to the Departments NDIS Funded Therapy in Schools Policy is below and this will give all information to parents regarding the use of NDIS funded therapists during the school day.

[NDIS Funded Therapy in Schools: Policy | education.vic.gov.au.](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/ndis-funding/ndis-funding-policy/ndis-funding-policy.aspx)

This guide is also available in hard copy from the office. Please contact Andrea or Viv if you would like a copy sent home.

The school may allow therapists on school grounds on a needs basis for the purpose of observing students, and to meet with staff for the purpose of completing assessments. Close consideration is given in these circumstances as it can be disruptive to the other students in the class and therefore will be negotiated between Belvoir staff, including the internal Allied Health team and NDIS therapists. Belvoir may allow some therapists to work with students at school, during school hours, and this decision will be made on a case by case basis. Several factors will be taken into consideration when these decisions are made including parent work commitments, difficulties relating to transport, distance families live from Wodonga, availability of an appropriate space within the school and the ability for school staff to supervise therapists on site.

Many other schools have a blanket ban on NDIS therapists coming into their school. Belvoir does not intend to do this at this point in time. We hope that parents will understand this and work with us to achieve an appropriate outcome for each individual student. We also highly encourage you to have your NDIS therapists contact the internal Allied Health team at Belvoir, when needed. If you would like further clarification regarding this or you're requiring an NDIS request form please don't hesitate to email

[Belvoir.wodonga.sds@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Belvoir.wodonga.sds@education.vic.gov.au)



# Download our school app for free!



- Instant news notifications
- Online absentee forms
- Events and reminders



## Download instructions:

1. Go to the App Store and download "School Stream" to your phone.

2. Open the app and type the school's name into the search bar to load the school's profile.

3. Make sure you agree to Push Notifications when prompted.